

and the airport metal detector on the other, and then whenever somebody comes up with a specific, argue it within that framework.

[A student stated that the First Lady knew what she was talking about in saying that it takes a whole village to raise children and that if everyone would just look out for everyone else's children, good things would happen.]

The President. I agree with that. Thank you. *[Laughter]* I think that's very important, that—one of you asked me what I was going to do. I think that the import of what everybody said, all of you said today, is that we all have responsibilities here. And that all these children are our children, and we all have responsibility.

Who's next?

Ms. Harmon. I'm sorry to have to say this, but the afternoon is drawing to a close here; students do have to move on. And we're delighted—

The President. You guys have got to get on the buses, right?

Ms. Harmon. Yes, coming up anyhow. We're very happy that all the students could participate today, and we're so glad that you shared your thoughts in the candid way that you did. So thank you very much. And especially thank you to President Clinton for coming here and sharing and listening to us as well. We're delighted to have you here.

The President. Let me just say this—I know we've got to sign off—first, you were terrific, and I thank you. I thank you for being honest. I thank you for being forthright. Second, in the next few days, as the agony of the grief fades in Colorado and as the facts tend to come out more, I think—I'm speaking not only to those of you who are here in this room, but the millions of children all across our country who are listening and the teachers and the educators—we are going to be working hard on this. And anyone who has more ideas for us needs to feel free to send them to us at the White House, and send them to the Secretary of Education.

We are working to reach out to the country. We want to do what we can to create more environments like this one and to do everything we can to minimize the chance

that anything like this will happen again. And we want to, in the process, reassure the children and the parents of America that overwhelmingly our schools are good, safe places.

Thank you.

NOTE: The roundtable began at 12:45 p.m. in the media center. In his remarks, the President referred to John Porter, principal, T.C. Williams High School; Herb Berg, superintendent, Alexandria City schools; and Mayor Kerry Donley of Alexandria.

Statement on Earth Day

April 22, 1999

Today, the last Earth Day of the 20th century, is an opportunity to celebrate America's achievements in protecting our environment and public health and to dedicate ourselves to meeting the environmental challenges of the new century ahead.

Working together, we have made tremendous progress since the first Earth Day in cleaning our air and water, protecting our communities and children from toxic threats, and preserving our precious lands. Americans have demonstrated time and again that we can safeguard our environment even as we grow our economy. I am proud of all that Vice President Gore and I have done to advance these efforts over the past 6 years.

Today the Vice President announces a national strategy to reduce air pollution and restore pristine skies in our national parks and wilderness areas so future generations can see and enjoy them in all their natural splendor. This is but one effort to leave this a better land for our descendants. I join the Vice President in calling on Congress to approve our lands legacy initiative, dedicating permanent funding so that years from now Americans can continue protecting and restoring the deserts, mountains, coastlands, and plains that are so much a part of our Nation's heritage.

A new century brings new environmental challenges—perhaps the greatest is global warming. There is no clearer reminder that we are, indeed, all members of one global community. Only by acting together—as a nation, and in partnership with other nations—can we avert this common threat. This

is a challenge the Vice President and I are fully committed to meeting.

It is my sincere hope that when Americans gather 100 years from now to celebrate Earth Day, they will remember us as dedicated stewards of our Nation's air, water, and land, and will instill the same spirit in all those who follow.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia concerning the situation in the Balkans.

In an afternoon ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Martin Butora of Slovakia; Sheila Sisulu of South Africa; Dato Ghazzali bin Sheikh Abdul of Malaysia; Farid Abboud of Lebanon; Leonard Nangolo Iipumbu of Namibia; Alfred Toro Hardy of Venezuela; and Peter Moser of Austria.

The President announced his intention to appoint Solomon D. Trujillo as a member of the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to appoint Solomon D. Trujillo as a member of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

The President announced his intention to appoint Shahara Ahmad-Llewellyn to the Board of Governors for the United Services Organizations, Inc.

The White House announced that the President proposed a \$6.049 billion emergency supplemental package to fund the military and humanitarian efforts in Kosovo.

The White House announced that the President met with FEMA Director James Lee Witt and 14 members of the Project Im-

pact Fire Services Partnership for Disaster Prevention.

April 20

The President announced his intention to nominate Gwen C. Clare to be Ambassador to Ecuador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Oliver P. Garza to be Ambassador to Nicaragua.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dr. Ikram Khan to be a member to the Board of Regents for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

The President declared a major disaster in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on April 3 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Georgia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes beginning on April 15.

April 21

In the evening, the President met with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom in the Residence.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard L. Morningstar to be Ambassador to the European Union with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

The President announced his intention to appoint James R. Houghton and Susan D. Auld as members of the National Skill Standards Board.

The President announced the appointment of John Dillon as a member of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

April 22

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation from the White House with Attorney General Janet Reno in Littleton, CO, concerning the attack at Columbine High School.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Alexandria, VA, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.